DOCTRINE OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Let Virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy Confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the Doctrine of the Priesthood shall Distil upon thy soul as the Dews from Heaven. (D & C 121:45)

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ANSWERS TO CONTRADICTIONS AND SCRIPTURAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE ADAM-GOD DOCTRINE

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Introduction

Throughout the years there have been many attacks made against the Adam-God Doctrine. These have come both from within and from without the LDS Church. In all this, several apparent contradictions and problems have been pointed out. Among these is the claim that President Young contradicted himself in his teachings; and another is that the doctrine of Adam-God contradicts the Scriptures. In the past a few authors have attempted to resolve these problems, nevertheless, to date, no solid answers have been given, thus the nagging questions still remain unsolved. It is these problems and contradictions which become the focus of this issue of *Doctrine of the Priesthood*.

What follows is a letter which was written on January 26th, 1991, in answer to certain questions relating to the Adam-God doctrine which were asked the author.

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, *that thou hast* **Hid** *these things from the* **Wise** *and* **Prudent**, *and hast* **Revealed** *them unto* **Babes**: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and *no* **Man Knoweth Who** *the* **Son** *is, but the* **Father**; *and* [no man Knoweth] **Who** *the* **Father** *is*, **But** *the* **Son**, *and* **He** *to* **Whom** *the* **Son** *will* **Reveal Him**. (Luke 10:21–22)

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said . . . . *this is* **Life Eternal**, *that they might* ***know*** **Thee** *the only* **True God**, *and* **Jesus Christ**, *whom thou hast sent*. (John 17:1–3)

But this shall be *the* **Covenant** *that I will* **Make** *with the* **House** *of* **Israel**; *After those days*, saith the Lord, *I will put* **My Law** *in their* **Inward Parts**, *and* **Write** *it in their* **Hearts**; and will be their God,

and they shall be my people. And *they shall teach no more every man his neighbour*, and every man his brother, saying, **Know** *the* **Lord**: *for they shall* ***all*** know me [who remain], from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jer 31:33–34)

Awake *to* **Righteousness**, *and* **Sin Not**; *for some* **Have Not** *the* **Knowledge** *of* **God: I Speak** *this to your* **Shame**. (1 Cor 15:34)

Joseph Smith: The Things *of* God *are of* **Deep Import**; and ***time, and experience, and*** **Careful** *and* **Ponderous** *and* **Solemn Thoughts** *can only find them out*. Thy mind, O man! *if thou wilt lead a soul unto* **Salvation**, must stretch *as high as the utmost heavens (2 Cor 12:2)*, and search into and contemplate the ***darkest abyss***, *and the* ***broad expanse*** *of* ***eternity*** *— thou must* **Commune** *with* **God**. How much *more* **Dignified** *and* **Noble** *are the* **thoughts** *of* **God**, than the vain imaginations of the human heart! **None** *but* **Fools** *will* **Trifle** *with the* **Souls** *of* **Men**. . . . . **We** *are* **Called** *to* **Hold** *the* **Keys** *of the* **Mysteries** *of those things that have been kept* **Hid** *from the* **Foundation** *of the* **World** *until* **Now**. Some have tasted a little of these things, many of which are to be poured down from heaven *upon the heads of* ***babes***; yea, upon the ***weak, obscure*** *and* ***despised ones*** *of the earth*. . . . .

And now, brethren, after your ***tribulations***, if you do these things, and exercise *fervent* ***prayer*** and ***faith*** *in the sight of God always*, **He** *shall* **Give** *unto you* **Knowledge** *by His* **Holy Spirit**, yea by the *unspeakable gift of the* **Holy Ghost**, *that has not been revealed* ***since*** *the world was* ***until now***; which our forefathers have waited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times . . . a time to come in which **Nothing** *shall be* **Withheld**, *whether there be one* **God** *or many* **Gods**, *they shall be* ***manifest***; all thrones and dominions, principalities and powers, shall be revealed and set forth *upon all who have* ***endured*** **Valiantly** *for the* **Gospel** *of* **Jesus Christ**; . . . . *according to that which was* **Ordained** *in the midst of the* **Council** *of the* **Eternal God** *of all other* **Gods**, *before this world was*, *that should be* **Reserved** *unto the* **Fnishing** *and the* **End** *thereof*, when *every man shall* ***enter*** *into His* **Eternal Presence**, *and into His* **Immortal Rest**.

But I beg leave to say unto you, brethren, that ***ignorance***, ***superstition*** and ***bigotry*** placing itself where it ought not, *is oftentimes in the way of the* ***prosperity*** *of this* **Church**; (*TPJS* <25 Mar 1839> 137–138)

The **Prophet Joseph Smith**: I will **Prove** *that the* ***world*** *is* **Wrong**, *by showing* ***what*** **God** ***is***. I am going to enquire after God; for I want you all to know him, and to be familiar with him; and if I am bringing you *to a knowledge of him*, *all* ***persecutions*** *against me ought to* ***cease***. You will *then know that I am his servant*; for *I speak as one* ***having*** **Authority**.

I will *go back to the beginning before the world was*, to show *what kind of being* **God** *is*. What sort of a being was God in the beginning? Open your ears and hear, all ye ends of the earth, for *I am going to prove it to you by the Bible*, and to tell you *the* ***designs*** *of* ***God*** *in* ***relation*** *to the* ***human race***, and why He *interferes* with the affairs of man.

God himself *was* **once** *as we are* **Now**, *and is an* **Exalted Man**, and *sits* ***enthroned*** *in yonder heavens*! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by his power, was to make himself visible,—I say, *if you were to see him today*, *you would see* ***him*** **Like** *a* **Man** *in* **Form**—*like yourselves in all the* ***person***, ***image***, *and very* ***form*** *as a* **Man**; for **Adam** *was created in the very fashion,* ***image*** *and* ***likeness*** *of* **God**, *and received* **Instruction** *from, and* **Walked**, **Talked** *and* **Conversed** *with* **Him**, *as one man* ***talks*** *and* ***communes*** *with* ***another***. . . . . it is necessary we should ***understand*** *the* ***character*** *and* ***being*** *of* **God** *and* ***how*** *he came to be so*; for *I am going to tell you* ***how*** **God** *came to be* **God**. We have *imagined and supposed that* **God** *was* **God** *from all* ***eternity***. *I will* **Refute** *that* **Idea**, *and take away the* **Veil**, *so that you may see*.

These are *incomprehensible ideas to some*, but they are ***Simple***. It is *the* **First Principle** *of the* **Gospel** *to* **Know** *for a* **Certainty** *the* **Character** *of* **God**, and to know that *we may converse with* ***him*** *as one man* ***converses*** *with* ***another***, and that *he was* **Once** *a* **Man** *like* **Us**; yea, that God Himself, *the* Father *of us all*, **Dwelt** ***on an*** **Earth**, *the same as* Jesus Christ Himself Did (1 John 3:16, 23); *and I will show it* **From** *the* **Bible**. (*TPJS* 345)

Answers to Contradictions and Scriptural Problems Relating to the Adam-God Doctrine

by
Fred C. Collier

– 1 –

Dear Brother Johnson: I received your letter dated December 20, 1990, and forthwith respond. I appreciate your commendations respecting *Unpublished Revelations* and *The Teachings of President Brigham Young.*

In your letter you ask some interesting questions. About five years ago, someone else made the same queries in a letter, and as I started to answer them it led me to make extensive enlargements to all the cross references in the Adam-God speeches which were in *The Teachings of President Brigham Young Vol. 3,* and set the publication back a whole year! It also led to the enlargement of my pamphlet "Brigham Young Speaks" about 4 times over, with the final product being published in a series of three pamphlets under the title of "President Brigham Young's Doctrine on Deity". To date, these three pamphlets constitute the

most comprehensive statement on the subject of Adam-God ever to be published. The whole body of the text is taken from the speeches and recorded sayings of President Young, with the material being organized topically and all ran together so that it flows as though it were one speech. Each statement is carefully referenced to its original source, but the text itself is taken from more than 160 different speeches, diary entries, and etc, and much of that which is quoted has never before been published. If you have not read these, you ought to get them. Ironically, after spending all this time, I never did write out a direct answer to the questions, so I will take the time to do it here.

LUCIFER

Lucifer is not a Biblical term, but Satan is. According to earlier accounts of the Temple ceremony, Satan was a Son of Perdition who had failed his probation on the same mortal earth that Michael/Adam of this creation had lived on during his probationary state. Probably, Michael/Adam and Satan became well acquainted with each other in a negative relationship during that probation. Thus it would have been possible for Satan to posssess a physical body at the time he entered the Garden of Eden to tempt Adam.

This doctrine fits in nicely with the Ancient Israelite and early Christian belief that Satan had seduced Eve/Lilith and was the literal father of Cain in the flesh. This doctrine was the cause for the loathing attitude which the Jews had for the Samaritans. According to early Jewish and Christian thought, the Samaritans had mixed their blood with the Canaanites who were the children of Cain and through this means, had become the literal descendants of Satan. This doctrine is clearly illustrated in the 8th chapter of John, as well as in many other places. See also Moses chapter 7 verse 22, and Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 where the enmity between Satan's "seed" and Eve's "seed" is decreed. For more on this see *The Teachings of President Brigham YoungVol. 3* p. 17, footnote "b"; page 45, footnote "s"; and page 350, footnote "bi".

JOSEPH SMITH
— THE HOLY GHOST —

As for the identity of the Holy Ghost or the third member of the Godhead of this Earth — The Prophet taught that he, (i.e. Joseph Smith) was that being. You will find a comprehensive discussion on

this subject in a pamphlet which I wrote entitled "The Trinity and The Holy Spirits — The Doctrine As Joseph Taught It".

In your first question you state:

> The Adam-God doctrine has brought to mind a few questions. Namely, who are the following characters: the Grandfather, Eloheim, Yahovah, Yahovah Michael, Lucifer, and the Holy Ghost? According to Brigham Young, what role did they play in the Creation and before — are any of the said names just names for the same person, and what lies in their future?

With the exception of the question on the Holy Ghost, you will find all these queries answered in President Brigham Young's own words in the above referred to pamphlets, particularly between pages 99 and 105. But to answer your question in specific terms — First of all, as is well known, in accordance with Mormon theology, it is understood that the primary task of creation was masterminded and accomplished by three distinct characters, and in the drama of creation as enacted in the Temple Ceremony these three characters are given the name/titles Eloheim, Jehovah and Michael. This is in perfect harmony with the teachings of President Young. Indeed, even though the Temple Ceremony was revealed by the Prophet, including the names of the characters in the creation — still, by and large, the account which we have of it was dictated by President Young in 1877. Unfortunately, the name designations for the Gods as given in the Endowment Ceremony has led many Latter-day Saints to believe that President Young never applied the names "Eloheim" and "Yahovah" to Michael/Adam-God, but as we shall see, ***this is not so!***

Eloheim, Jehovah, Michael
— Father, Son and Grandson —

As for President Young's understanding of the relationship between the different members of the Creation Trinity — he taught that Eloheim, Yahovah and Michael, were all blood kindred, and related to each other in the following manner: Michael was the "Adam" of this Earth — Jehovah was Michael/Adam's Father-God from the world where he (i.e. Michael/Adam) was born in mortality and faithfully fulfilled his probation — and Eloheim was Michael/Adam's Grandfather-God — hence, "Father, Son and Grandson", or to put it in reverse order, "Son, Father and Grandfather". It is important to realize, that in President Young's mind, Jesus or the Christ of our Earth was not a member of the "Creation Trinity" and neither was the Holy

Ghost. In other words, *the Creation Trinity and Godhead Trinity* ***did not*** *constitute the same body of individuals*. In fact Michael/Adam of this Earth was the only member to have a standing in both quorums. However this is not to say that President Young believed that Jesus did not participate in the creation. Indeed, in accordance with Job, we might presume that all of us who were to come down and reside on this earth were present when the foundations of the Earth were laid, and that in one way or another we participated in the creation. And if this can be said of us, how much more so can it be said of Jesus. In fact, in some of the early Utah accounts of the temple ceremony, there are four characters portrayed in the creation instead of three, and Jesus was the fourth member. Nevertheless, in 1852 President Young made the following statement:

It is true that the earth was organized by *three distinct characters, namely,* **Eloheim, Yahovah, and Michael,** these three forming a quorum . . . *perfectly represented in the Deity* as **Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**. (*TPBY* 3:94)

— ADAM NOT THE HOLY GHOST —

Some have supposed from the above statement, that President Young identified Michael/Adam as the Holy Ghost. That this is **a mistaken notion** is self evident from the whole context of the above statement. Not only so, but at a later time President Young emphatically denied that Adam was the Holy Ghost. Consider the following:

I will notice another idea touching the Holy Ghost begetting the Son of God.

Who was it that spoke from the heavens and said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him"? **Was it God the Father? It was.** The Apostles bear testimony that such a voice was actually heard, "This is my beloved Son," and if it is true [that] the Holy Ghost begat him, [then] I would add, [or say: "This is my beloved Son] which was begotten by one of my neighbors, hear ye him." Who was the Saviour begotten by? Oh, by his Father or his brother, or some other person. So the Holy Ghost begetting the Saviour looks to me. It makes me think of a story I heard in a dramatical performance once, that a certain individual was born of one of his aunts but he had no mother. It appears as reasonable to me to say a cousin or a fellow laborer of the Saviour begat him, as to say the Holy Ghost begat him. *Who did beget him*? **His Father,** and **his Father is our God,** and *the Father of our spirits,* **and He is the framer of the body.** *The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ — Who is He*? **He is Father Adam — Michael — the Ancient of Days.** Has he [i.e. Jesus] a Father? He has! Has he a Mother? He has! *Now to say that the Son*

of God was begotten by the Holy Ghost, **is to say the Holy Ghost is God the Father,** *which is* ***inconsistent, and contrary*** *to all the revelations of God, both modern, and ancient.* (*TPBY* 3:251–252)

The above statement makes it clear that President Young **did not** teach that Adam was the Holy Ghost of this creation. However, as I have said, the "Creation Trinity" is not composed of the same members as the "Godhead Trinity" — it may be that Michael/Adam did occupy the position of Holy Ghost on a former creation, and if so, perhaps the other two members of the Godhead Trinity to which he then belonged were the same individuals who occupied the positions of Yahovah and Eloheim in the Creation Trinity of this Earth. In other words, Eloheim, Yahovah and Michael who created this Earth, would have been Father, Son, and Holy Ghost on another creation, and as such, as President Young said, they would have been "perfectly represented in the Deity as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost — but this is all supposition, for President Young's statement can just as easily be interpreted as a simple correlation between the "Creation Trinity" and the "Godhead Trinity" with three members being in each quorum and Michael acting as the third member in the Creation, just as the Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead Trinity. However, there are a couple of statements coming from the Prophet Joseph Smith which will be presented later in this letter, that strongly suggest the possibility of the former idea.

Father, Son, Grandson
— All Gods become Adams —

In 1871 President Young stated that:

Eloheim, ***Yahovah*** *and* ***Michael***, *were* ***Father, Son*** *and* ***Grandson***. *They* ***made*** *this* Earth *and* **Michael** *became* **Adam**. (*BYDD* 37)

This and the former statement constitute the clearest declaration which has been left to us regarding the "*Creation Trinity*", yet we must ever bear in mind that in accordance with President Young's understanding, Adam's father and Grandfather God had also *at an earlier date* been an Adam on an Earth. Hence they also could be referred to as Adam or Michael, for according to President Young's teachings every god who would ever become a father of spirits would of necessity have to become an Adam on an earth. This would be necessary in

order to give his spirit children the experience of a mortal probation. Hence every Exalted God must become an Adam. This is the thinking behind the following statements from President Young:

"'Well,' says one, '[if He is God] why was Adam called Adam?' [Because] He was the first man on the earth, and its framer and maker." "The name that was given to Adam *was more ancient than he was* — ***it was the name of a man long before him*** who enjoyed the Priesthood. The name 'Adam' was given him because he was the first man. Adam . . . signifies [the] first man and Eve signifies [the] first woman." (*BYDD* 102–103)

"every earth, and the people thereof, in their turn and time, receive all that we receive, and pass through all the ordeals that we are passing through." "And to carry the thing still further, *we expect all who are faithful* ***to take the place of Adams*** *in the worlds to be created*; then if there were no apostates, what would we do for Devils? As we have to get our devils from this earth, for the worlds that are to be created." (*BYDD* 97–98)

It is apparent from the above that in accordance with President Young's understanding, all three members of the Creation Trinity have at one time or another been an Adam on an Earth. This is not to say however that President Young's teachings on Adam-God can be ***conveniently*** explained away, as some have attempted to do, for it is clear from his speeches that the Michael/Adam who lived in mortality for 930 years on this Earth, is the father of our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus, and that that very being is *God the Eternal Father* **to us**, and as such, the first and highest member of the Godhead of this Earth. Nevertheless, as I have stated, it is important to realize that in President Young's mind, *all* ***three members*** *of the* **CREATION TRINITY** *went through a mortal experience as an* **ADAM** *on an* **EARTH.**

— ELOHEIM & JEHOVAH —

As for the name/titles Eloheim and Jehovah, we have already seen that President Young used them to refer to Adam's Father and Grandfather God. What is confusing is that he also applied the same names to Michael/Adam who dwelt on this Earth in mortality. In other words, according to Brigham Young, *among* **Michael/Adam-God's** *many names were* **Jehovah and Eloheim.** Thus, in accordance with President Young's teachings, all three members of the Creation Trinity are and have at times rightly been called Adam — all three have been called Michael — all three have been called Yahovah — and all three have been called "Eloheim".

Another aspect of the problem is found in a doctrine which the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, the most literal interpretation of which *seems* to present a bottleneck in our Father's plan for the Exaltation of His children. The substance of this teaching is that "The Son treads in the tracks of his Father and inherits what God did before". This is what the Prophet taught in his now famous King Follett sermon:

> What did Jesus say? (Mark it Brother Rigdon) The scriptures inform us that Jesus said: "As the Father hath [the] Power [of] Life in Himself, even so hath the Son [the] Power [of Life] in himself." To do what? Why what the Father did — the answer is obvious — in a manner, to lay down His body and take it up again. Jesus [said] <I do as my Father before me did. Well, what did the Father do? *Why, he went and took a body* ***and went to redeem a world in the flesh***.> My Father laid down His body and took it up again [and I must do the same]. *Jesus, what are you going to do? ["****I am going] to lay down my life as my Father did*** *that I might take it up again"*. Do you believe it? If you don't believe it, you don't believe the Bible. . . . . .
>
> What did Jesus do? [What did he say he did?] *Why I do the same things that I saw my Father do when worlds came rolling into existence.* **I saw my Father** *work out His Kingdom with fear and trembling and* **I must do the same**; and when I get my Kingdom work[ed out] I will give {it} to the Father, so that He obtains Kingdom rolling [forth] upon Kingdom. [This] will exalt {Him} [and] add to His glory by the addition of subjects to His ***family or Kingdom***, [for] God is glorified in [the] Salvation [and] Exaltation of {all} His creatures and etc. *[The Father] will [then] take a higher Exaltation and I [i.e. Jesus] will take His place*, and [thus I] am also exalted — *so that Jesus treads in his [Father's] tracks* ***to inherit what God did before.*** <*This is the way we become heirs of God and joint heirs [with] Jesus*, etc.> It is plain beyond comprehension. (extract from a new amalgamated text of the Prophet's King Follett sermon, given on April 7th, 1844, prepared by Fred C. Collier; See future issue of *Doctrine of the Priesthood*)

We may gather from this that what ever the Father has done or been, if not already, surely at some future time, the Son will also do and become. Not only this but in accordance with the Prophet's teachings, the "Holy Ghost is now in a state of Probation which if he should perform in righteousness he may pass through the same or a similar course of things that the Son has." (*WJS* 245)

For the sake of clarity, I will interject here that it is not my contention that every individual must become the second and third member of a Godhead Trinity before they can become a Father God such as Michael/Adam — though no doubt, at least in some cases, this will

be so. However, it is my contention that of necessity, those of us who would become Father-Gods must first pass through similar experiences in personal service and sacrifice, though as I have said, they need not necessarily do this in the capacity of the presiding Second or Third God of a Trinity. In any case, no doubt, all who receive Exaltation will become "*Saviors on Mount Zion*".

In accordance with this doctrine then, it may be that we can call the Grandfather God of Michael/Adam the following names: The Holy Ghost, Jesus or Yawshua, Michael/Adam, Yahweh, Eloheim, El. etc. and the same name/titles would also apply to Michael/Adam of our Earth and ultimately to Jesus and the Holy Ghost as well. The point I wish to make here is that all the common name titles for the many Gods make it difficult if not impossible to discern the actual identity of a particular God by a name/title alone — in other words, there must be other information to place things in context, such as the Michael/Adam who lived in mortality on this Earth, or the sacrificial Christ of this Earth, etc.

Probably the reason for this seeming confusion, is the apparent fact that *the Lord has never revealed* **any Priesthood calling, function or office** *beyond the calling* **of God the Father** or **Michael/Adam-God.** This may be surmised by reading the teachings and sermons of the Prophet Joseph Smith and President Young. To be sure, we know that there are Gods above and beyond Michael/Adam, but beyond their existence and the fact that our God has descended lineally from them, and a **name/title** *which has been given them* **in common with all other Exalted Gods**, we know nothing of them. Since exalted Gods receive the same name titles, without more information, in many cases it becomes difficult, if not impossible to distinguish between them. As with the ordinances of the gospel and the Plan of Salvation, so also with Exaltation and Godhood — *the path of experience* **has, is, and always will be the same,** *worlds without end.* **Hence, all Gods are stereotyped,** *and beyond the calling of God the Father,* **nothing is known.** All Gods have entered a mortal probation, received a first hand experience with opposition, and literally descended below all things that they might rise above all things — consequently *all Gods have inherited* **the same name/titles** — hence the confusion. If all this appears to be a contradiction, you should be made aware of the fact that the problem is not unique to, nor did it originate with Brigham Young. As President Young adequately expressed the problem:

You may trace the scriptures through and you will find that He [i.e. God the Father of our spirits and our Lord Jesus Christ] *is known to one people* ***[by] one title today*** *and tomorrow* ***by another,*** *and the next day* ***by another,*** *and there* ***He leaves it****.* (*BYDD* 100 –101)

In accordance with President Young then, the problem with determining the proper name for God, as also the plurality of "gods", **begins in the Bible**. Those who will carefully study the scriptures *will learn for themselves* **that this is so** — indeed, *this is true* **no matter what particular view** *you may espouse*. The following information will serve to illustrate this point.

— Jehovah —

To begin with, the correct pronunciation of the divine name "Yahweh" is not certain. A century ago "Jehovah" was the popular translation, and the popular use of this translation has largely carried over into our day, but during the last century a number of other variants have been used. In President Young's April 9th, 1852 discourse, he used "Yahovah" (see *TPBY* 3:94), but today, the general consensus among scholars seems to accept "Yahweh" as the correct translation. Nevertheless, it should be understood that these variant spellings are merely different translations of the same divine name or Hebrew word.

— Eloheim —

The literal translation of Hebrew "Eloheim" is "gods" and as such it is often translated in the King James Version. However, as the Bible is **presently** constituted, in the vast majority of the thousands of places where it is found in the Old Testament, "eloheim" is translated into the noun "god", and in this form it is consistently used as an alternate for "Yahweh". Thus in the Old Testament, Eloheim and Yahweh are both used as names to designate the same God.

The singular form of "eloheim" is "**El**", and "Eloha" . The word "El" occurs about 238 times in the Old Testament. It has been determined by scholars that during the time of the Patriarchs "**El**" *was used as* **the personal name** *for* **God the Father.** (For more on this see my pamphlet titled: "New Light On The Ancient Hebrew/Christian Doctrine On Deity", to be published in a forth coming issue of *Doctrine of the Priesthood*) In this regard it is significant that in the Endowment Ceremony, we are taught to address our prayers to "**El**". Hence the Latter-day Saints are

taught to worship the God of "Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", just as the Prophet Joseph Smith and President Young have declared.

Generally speaking, the New Testament identifies God the Father as the Jehovah God of the Old Testament, while the Old Testament itself refers to God variously as Eloheim, Jehovah, El, the Ancient of Days, etc. and this too, is in contradistinction to the Christ, who in nearly all the Messianic prophecies, is consistently distinguished as separate from God by such designations as the "servant" of Yahweh/Eloheim and etc. (For references on this see *BYDD* 99–100, footnote c) Thus while the doctrine of the Plurality of Gods is found throughout the Bible, with the exception of Deuteronomy 32 as rendered in some of the more recent translations, and a handful of other passages, the separation of Jehovah and Eloheim as proper names for two separate personages or Gods is **rare**.

Still, as if confusion were the ultimate object, there are a few instances, both in the Old and New Testament, where Jesus is also given the name Jehovah and in one place even El, the Everlasting Father. There are also a few places in the New Testament, as also in the Book of Mormon, where Jesus is called the "Father and the Son". Unfortunately, this has led many to confute the personages of the Father and the Son as one God, in the belief that Jesus was both God the Son and God the Father. Yet in view of all that is said throughout the scriptures about the Father and the Son, as well as the heavenly manifestations of them both, as portrayed therein — of all doctrines, **this is most inconsistent** *and* **contradictory**. Throughout the scriptures, and especially in the Gospels as also in Daniel chapter 7 and the Book of Revelations, the Father and the Son are shown to be two distinct personages with the Son (notwithstanding his greatness) being submissive in all things to the will of his Father.

JESUS/JEHOVAH JR.
— MICHAEL/ADAM-GOD/JEHOVAH JR. —

The truth is, *the King James designation of Jesus as the proper name for Christ* **is a mistranslation** — Jesus' real Hebrew name is correctly pronounced as "**Yawshua**". This is consistent with certain claims which are made in the New Testament Gospels to the effect that when Jesus came upon the Earth, he came *in the name of his Father* — hence "**Yawshua**". It is also significant that in accordance with New Testament interpretation of the Old Testament, Jesus' father's name would

be in him, which again would be "**Yawshua**". In other words *Jesus took upon himself his father's name*, just as we mortals often take upon us the names of our mortal fathers. *So we should call Jesus*, **Jehovah Jr.** Not only so, but as we have seen, in accordance with President Young, Michael/Adam who lived for 930 years on this Earth in mortality had also taken upon himself the name of His father. *Thus, Michael/Adam* is also **Jehovah Jr.** This is the thinking behind the statements which President Young made in his October 8th, 1854 Conference address, wherein he referred to Adam as *"Yahovah Michael"* (*TPBY* 3:355).

In accordance with President Young's understanding of divine names in the Bible (*with the exception of the Garden of Eden story*, and other divine manifestations *which occurred* **during Adam's mortal sojourn** *on Earth*) the Jehovah and Eloheim of the Old Testament were two titles, or proper names for Michael/Adam. On many occasions, when quoting from the Bible, he identified Jehovah/Eloheim, God of the Old Testament with Michael/Adam who dwelt on this Earth in mortality. The following statements are good examples of this:

I heard of one man who said he would not believe in, worship, nor acknowledge a God who would command a man to sacrifice his only son, as Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac. We Latter-day Saints are just so unwise and foolish as to believe that the Lord Almighty required this at the hands of Abraham . . . . . *Who is that God*? **He is my Father,** *He is your Father;* **we are His offspring.**

We may ask them [i.e. ancient Israel] the question, "Do you believe in the **God of Abraham, Isaac and of Jacob**?" So do the Latter-day Saints. If they believe in the God who told Moses to say to Pharaoh that He was a "**Man of War**", so do the Saints. I say, O Israel, ancient Israel, do you believe in the God who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt with a high hand and an outstretched arm! "Yes," say they; and so do the Latter-day Saints. Have you faith, that if necessary, He would again shower manna from Heaven and send flocks of quails to allay your hunger and cause water to burst from the rock to quench your thirst as He did when the Children of Israel were passing through the Wilderness? Do you believe that He is the God whom Moses followed and by whom he was dictated? "Yes," says the whole House of Israel. *Well, that is the very God that we, the Latter-day Saints, are serving.* **He** *is our* **Father.** *He is the* **God** *and* **Father** *of Our* **Lord Jesus Christ** [and] . . . . *He is the* **Father** *of our* **Spirits"**

"Well now, *who is the father of our spirits* [and of] . . . . . *our Lord Jesus Christ*[?] . . . Who is He? Do you know anything about Him? Can you find out who He is? Suppose we go to the scriptures and enquire there who He is.

At one time He says, "**I Am** *that* **I Am**." At another time when the question was proposed by someone He replied, "**I am** *the* **Lord** *your* **God**." At another time He is spoken of as a "**Man** *of* **War**," "*a* **General**," and so on."

"If we can get to Him, the **Ancient** *of* **Days**, whose hair is like wool, a Man of Age, a Man of Experience, and can learn of Him to understand '**I Am** *that* **I Am**' we shall then hear Him say, 'I am your Father and Leader. I will be your Front and your Rearward. I understand what this world is. I understand all about it. I have the government of the world in my hands although to a certain extent My opposer, My enemy, has gained a certain influence in the world.' You will hear Him say, '**I** *am in the* **Whirlwind** *at My pleasure.* **I** *ride upon the* **Storms** and I govern worlds. I set up one king and put another down and organize empires and overthrow them at My pleasure. I the Lord do all these things.' *When we come to that great and wise and glorious Being that the children of Israel were afraid of,* ***whose countenance shown*** *so that they could not look upon Him,* I say when we get to Him whom they could not look upon . . . . . When we can see that very character and talk and live with Him in our tabernacles, if we are so fortunate as to get there, into His society, then we can say that *to us there is but one living and true God and* **He** *is the* **Father** *of Our* **Lord Jesus Christ** *and of Our* **Spirits.** *And when we get back to Him and learn that* **He is actually our Father** we shall not feel any anxiety to call upon anybody else for the blessings we are in need of."

"We read in the Bible with regard to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, that they will be gathered together tribe by tribe, and that when they are so gathered they will hear the sentence of the **Ancient** *of* **Days** . . . . . They will come up tribe by tribe, and the **Ancient** *of* **Days,** *He who led Abraham, and talked to* **Noah, Enoch, Isaac, and Jacob,** *that very Being will come and judge the* **Twelve Tribes** *of* **Israel.**" (*BYDD* pp. 99–103)

It is evident from the above that in President Young's mind, Michael/Adam-God is in very deed Jehovah/Eloheim, the God of the Old Testament. Knowing this is important, as it gives insight into President Young's usage of the divine name/titles Eloheim and Jehovah, and thereby furnishes us with the key to understanding the so-called contradictions in his teachings on Adam-God. For instance, on a few occasions President Young referred to Eloheim as "Our Father in Heaven" and the "Father of our Spirits". Many have taken this as a contradiction to other statements which he made, wherein he identified Michael/Adam as the Father of our Spirits. There are two points of explanation to this apparent contradiction; the first being that in President Young's mind Jehovah and Eloheim as used in the Old Testament were two titles which rightly belonged to Michael/Adam and

the second being that in President Youngs thinking, the entire line of our forefather Gods are rightly referred to, and rightly are, both "God the Father" and our "Father in Heaven" to us, and they are as much the fathers of our spirits as Adam is the father of our flesh.

No doubt, there will be those who will argue that I am here twisting Brigham's teachings into saying something which he never taught in order to explain away the difficulties. However, those who will carefully study President Young's teachings will discover for themselves the truthfulness of what I have said. There are a number of statements in the pamphlets referred to above which would argue hard for this assertion, of which the following excerpts are a few:

"Our Bible believers can acknowledge that Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, but ask . . . any of the Christian world do you believe that his father was ever tried as he was? No, they will tell you in a moment. . . . . This is an item which the people can scarcely realize, that *Our* **FATHER** *and Our* **GOD, HIM** *whom we* **SERVE**, *the* ***Great*** **ELOHEIM,** He *has once been* ***afflicted*** precisely as we now are."

"We *obey the* **LORD**, **HIM** *who is called* **JEHOVAH**, *the* **GREAT I AM**, **I AM** *a* **MAN** *of* **WAR**, **ELOHEIM**, **ETC.** We are under *many* ***Obligations to Obey*** **HIM**."

"I want to tell you, each and every one of you, that you are well acquainted with **GOD** *Our* **HEAVENLY FATHER**, *or the* **GREAT ELOHEIM**. You are all well acquainted with Him, for there is not a soul of you but what has lived in His house and dwelt with Him year after year; and yet you are seeking to become acquainted with Him, when the fact is, you have merely forgotten what you did know. I told you a little last Sabbath about forgetting things.

There is not a person here today but what is a son or a daughter of that Being. In the spirit world their spirits were first begotten and brought forth, and they lived there with their parents for ages before they came here. . . . . *Whether* **ADAM** *is the personage that we should consider* ***our Heavenly Father****, or not,* ***is considerable of a mystery*** *to a good many.* I do not care for one moment how that is; it is no matter *whether we are to consider* **HIM** *Our* **GOD,** *or whether* **HIS FATHER**, *or* **HIS GRANDFATHER**, for in either case we are of one species — of one family — and Jesus Christ is also of our species."

"The world may in vain ask the question, *'****Who*** *are* ***we****?'* But the Gospel tells us that *we are the* ***sons*** *and* ***daughters*** *of that* **GOD** *whom we* **SERVE.** *Some say, 'We are the children of Adam and Eve.' So we* ***are,*** *and they are the* **CHILDREN** *of Our* **HEAVENLY FATHER.** *We are all the children of* **ADAM** *and* **EVE**, *and they and we are the* **OFFSPRING** *of* **HIM** *who dwells in the Heavens, the* ***highest intelligence*** *that dwells anywhere that we have any knowledge of."*

"It is written, 'Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.' Refuse evil, choose good, hate iniquity, love truth. All this our fathers have done before us; *I do not particularly mean Father Adam, or his Father . . . but I mean our*

*fathers **who have been exalted** for **millions** of **years** previous to **Adam's** time.* They have all passed through the same ordeals we are now passing through and have searched all things, even to the depths of hell." (*BYDD* 103–105)

Not only is Michael/Adam our Father and God, but according to the Temple covenants and the teachings of Joseph and Brigham, Adam's Father and Grandfather are also "God the Father" to us, for we are their offspring and all that belongs to Michael/Adam is consecrated forever more to the generation of his forefather-Gods who were exalted millions of years before him. This is the great secret to the union of the Gods, for notwithstanding they are many in number, still, in their mind, purpose and heart they are one. President Young explained this as follows:

"But here in Utah that "one man power" is such a terrible thing. I would ask: Who is that man, and where is the power, and what is the power? *It is the power of Him who brought us into existence, and He is the Man who wields it,* and He is the Father of us all, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Maker and Possessor of this earth that we inhabit, and is the Producer of all things upon it. Is He one? Yes. Is His Trinity one? Yes.

"Have we not learned enough with regard to the character of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to at once believe, admit, and affirm that *the Holy Ghost always has and always will operate **precisely according to the suggestion of the** **Father***? Not a desire, act, wish, or thought does the Holy Ghost indulge in contrary to that which is dictated by the Father. We all sense this in a degree, because it has always been taught to us. It is taught in the Bible, in the revelations given through Joseph, and in the preaching by the Elders of Israel. It is our tradition, education, and experience in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Ghost, we believe, is one of the characters that form the Trinity, or the Godhead. *Not one person in three, nor three persons in one; but the* **Father, Son**, *and* **Holy Ghost** *are* **One** *in* **Essence,** *as the hearts of three men **who are** **United** in all* **Things.** He is one of the three characters we believe in, whose office it is to administer to those of the human family who love the Truth. I have stated that they are One, as the hearts of three men might be One. . . . .

"We believe that we have a correct idea of the character of the Son from the writings of the Apostles, so far as they learned it. . . . . According to that history — according to all you have learned, and to all the Holy Ghost has ever borne testimony of to you concerning him, let me ask you the same question in regard to him as I did concerning the Holy Ghost; and what would you say? *That he did nothing of himself*. He wrought miracles and performed a good work on the earth; but of himself he did nothing. He said, "As I have seen my Father do, so do I." *"I came not to do **my** will, but the **will** of **Him** that **sent** me.* We must come to the conclusion that *the Son of God did*

not suggest, dictate, act, or produce any manifestation of his power, of his glory, or of his errand upon the earth, only as it came from the ***mind*** *and* ***will*** *of his* ***Father.*** Do you not all firmly believe that the whole soul, heart, reflections, thoughts, and all the being of the Son of God were operated upon and did show forth that all he did manifest and bring forth pertaining to his mission was *according to the word and will of his Father?* Certainly you do.

"Jesus offered up one of the most essential prayers that could possibly be offered up by a human or heavenly being — no matter who, pertaining to the salvation of the people, and embodying a principle ***without which none can be saved****, when he prayed the Father to make his* **Disciples One**, *as* **He** *and his* **Father** *were* **One.** He knew *that if* **They** *did not become* **One**, *they could not be* **Saved** *in the* **Celestial Kingdom** *of* **God.** If persons do not see as he did while in the flesh, hear as he heard, understand as he understood, and become precisely as he was, according to their several capacities and callings, they can never dwell with him and his Father. That same principle stands out as the most prominent item of teaching in all the teachings and revelations that have ever been given from Heaven to men on the earth. . . . . .

"Jesus says, as it was said yesterday, *Except ye are one,* ***ye are not mine.*** Again, he says, *I pray thee, Father, to make these, my disciples,* ***one****, as thou,* **Father**, *art in* **Me**, *and* **I** *in* **Thee,** *that they also* **May** *be* **One** *in* **Us,** *I in them, and thou in me,* that they ***may be made*** **Perfect** *in* **One**. This is a curiosity that ranks among the mysteries *that the people do not understand.* The **Father** *and* **I** *are* **One**, *you* **Disciples** *and* **I** *are* **One**; it is quite a curiosity, but it is as true as it is curious. It is nothing more than ***a key-word*** *to Exaltation, Glory, Power, and Excellency,* ***by which*** **Principalities**, **Kingdom**[**s**], **Dominions**, *and* **Eternal Lives** *will* **Surround** *us.*" (*BYDD* 95; for more on this see pp. 92–96)

The following are other relevant statements which were made by President Young:

"I preached a short sermon here, yesterday, with regard to Exaltation. I spoke but a few minutes . . . . It is all connected with the Exaltation of man, showing how he becomes Exalted to be a King and a Priest — yea, even a God, like his Father in Heaven. This is a key for you. The faithful will become Gods, even the Sons of God; *but this does not overthrow the idea that we have a Father.* **Adam** *is my* **Father;** *. . . it does not prove that He is not my Father;* ***if I become a*** **God:** *it does not prove* ***that I have not a*** **Father.**

"It is written that God knows all things and has all power. He has the rule and command of this earth, and is the Father of all the human beings that have lived, do live and will live upon it. If any of his children become heirs to all things, they in their turn can say, by-and-by, that they know all things, and they will be called *Supreme, Almighty, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords*. All this and more that cannot enter into our hearts to conceive is

promised to the faithful, and are but so many stages in that ceaseless progression of Eternal Lives. *This will not detract anything from the glory and might of our Heavenly Father,* for He will **Remain our Father**, *and we shall still be* **Subject** *to* **Him,** *and as we progress in Glory and Power, it the more* ***enhances*** *the* ***glory*** *and* ***power*** *of our* ***Heavenly Father.***

There is a peculiar trait in the character of the Kingdom of God, that is diverse from all other kingdoms that have, do, or will exist; and the King we have enlisted to serve is different from all other kings; for he wishes all those over whom he reigns, to share with him the glory of his Kingdom. *He is our elder brother, and we are* ***children*** *of the same* ***Great Father.*** "And, if Children, then *Heirs: Heirs of God, and Joint Heirs with Christ;* if [it] so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together," when "he hath made us Kings and Priests unto God, and his Father." The king whom we serve, has promised to make all who overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil, kings like unto himself. What king, besides the Lord of Glory, has made such a promise to his subjects? Not only will the faithful and worthy subjects of the Kingdom of God, become Kings: but more; each one will become a King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. . . . . .

Each person who we crown in the Celestial Kingdom of God, will be a Father of Fathers, a King of Kings, a Lord of Lords, a God of Gods . . . . Each person will reign ***over his posterity*** [**Forever**]. Adam, Michael, the Ancient of Days will sit as the Judge of quick and dead, for He is the Father of all living and Eve is the Mother of all Living pertaining to the human family. He is their King, their Lord, their God, taking and holding His position in the grand unbroken chain of Endless Increase, and Eternal Progression. Enoch the seventh from Adam, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Twelve Patriarchs, Moses, Elias, and all [the] faithful in all ages of the world who have had the Gospel of Salvation, and have been unwavering in their faithfulness to the end of their mortal career, have and will obtain promises as Abraham did, and [will] become each one in his time, Father of Fathers, etc. and the lives issuing from them will be endless or ceaseless and endless in their increase; until their seed, and their Kingdoms shall be more numerous than the sand of the seashore, the stars of the firmament or the particles of dust upon the surface of the globe that cannot be numbered. You can readily see that this makes our Father Adam a great and mighty King. *When we are crowned Kings and Queens,* **Father Adam**, *and* **Mother Eve**, *will be* **King** *and* **Queen** *of us* **all**. Under the Priesthood which is after [the Order of] the Son of God, and the Power of an Endless Life, ***each*** **Father** *being a Son,* ***will always*** *throughout time and eternity* ***be subject to his*** **Father**, *as his* **King**, **Dictator**, **Father**, **Lord**, *and* **God**. *Each Son in his own turn becomes a Father* and is entitled to the ***same*** **Obedience** *from the line of his* **descendants**. *It is by the Authority and Power of the Holy Priesthood alone*

that those [beings] in Heaven and on Earth can be entitled to, and secured in the possession of the Legal Authority. The Priesthood of God, that was given to the ancients and is given to men in the latter-days, is coequal in duration with eternity — is without beginning of days or end of life. It is unchangeable in its system of government and its Gospel of Salvation. It gives to Gods and angels their supremacy and power, and offers Wealth, Influence, Posterity, Exaltations, Power, Glory, Kingdoms and Thrones, ceaseless in their duration, to all who will accept them on the terms upon which they are offered. Priesthood [is] the Principle by which all beings have become Gods, or [ever] will become Gods, *they must follow the* **PRINCIPLES** *of* **GOVERNMENT** *as revealed in the* **PRIESTHOOD**.*"* (*BYDD* 76–77, 80–81)

Parley P. Pratt wrote the following editorial which was published in *The Prophet* in 1845:

Having established the fact, or principle of eternal union between a man and his wife, we will now proceed to establish the eternal relationship and authority on one hand and obedience on the other, that will exist between parents and children.

To illustrate this principle we have a beautiful and plain precedent — *Jesus Christ and his Father* ***continue to be one in their affection and union*** *since he rose from the dead,* and he ***still yields*** **OBEDIENCE** *to the* ***commands*** *of his* **FATHER**, *and has also revealed* ***that he will continue to do so***, *when he has put down death, and all rule, and authority, and power.* **"**THEN *shall the* **SON** *also be* **SUBJECT** *to the* **FATHER."**

We hear nothing in all this subject *about* ***Jesus Christ*** *ever being '****of age****', so as to be free from all further* **OBLIGATION** *to* **OBEY** *his* **FATHER;** *but on the contrary, it is clearly revealed* ***that he will*** **ALWAYS** *be* **SUBJECT** *to* **HIM.**

Now this same Jesus prayed to his Father, as testified to by the Apostle John — That his disciples, and those who believed on their words, *might be* **ONE**, *even as* **CHRIST** *and his* **FATHER** *are* **ONE**. — *Not only one with God and Christ,* but also **ONE** *with* **EACH OTHER** *in the same* **MANNER**, *and in the* **SAME SENSE** *that they were* **ONE.**

Now suppose, in fulfillment of this prayer, *a* ***man*** *and his* ***children*** *were his* ***disciples***; and finally, *in the eternal world*, *they become* **ONE** *with each other*, ***in precisely the same sense*** *that Christ and his Father* **are one**; *would not these children be subject to their father* ***in the same manner*** *as Christ is subject to his Father?* Certainly they would.

We have also a most beautiful, practical illustration of the principle of continued authority on the part of the father, and obedience on the part of the children in this life, in the family of Jacob. His sons were, many of them, advanced in years, so far as to become heads of families at the time of going to Egypt for corn. And yet they all set an example of obedience to their

father, insomuch that they would not take Benjamin with them without his consent, even if they starved to death.

It appears too, that *Abraham had the entire control of his son Isaac's* ***matrimonial affairs***, although *Isaac was forty years of age*, at the time of his marriage with Rebecca. (*The Prophet* Vol, No XLI, p. 1–2)

The following editorial was written by Samuel W. Richards and published in the *Millennial Star* in 1854:

Daniel saw that the Saints possessed the kingdom, by virtue of which Adam was once more in possession of the dominion given unto him before the fall, which was over every living thing that moved upon the earth, which rendered him the universal Sovereign and Lord of all.

At this important period, when Adam is reinstated with full power upon the earth, seated upon his throne, as Daniel saw him — a glorious and an immortal God, one like the Son of Man comes in the clouds of heaven (as oftimes represented by the Apostles), to the Ancient of days, and receives from him dominion, glory, and a kingdom; or in other words, Michael, having accomplished the work committed to him, pertaining to this world, delivers up an account of his stewardship over the same, to that character represented as Yahovah in the creation of the world, who reigns in unison with those upon the earth, until his work is fully accomplished — till the last great contest with the enemy, who had been released for a little season, is won; then he in turn delivers up the kingdom to the great Eloheim, that in the language of the Apostle, "God may be all in all."

This final surrender, we are to bear in mind, does not detract from the Godlike power and dominion of our first Parent, nor of our Lord Jesus Christ. *In the* **Patriarchal Order** *of* **Government,** *each and every ruler is independent in his [own] sphere, his* ***rule extending*** *to those* ***below****, and not to those* ***above him***, in the same order. While the god of unnumbered worlds *is acknowledged to be* ***his*** **God** *and* **Father***, Adam still maintains his exalted position at the head of all those who are saved from among the whole family of man; and he will be* ***God*** *over all those* ***who*** *are made* ***Gods*** *from among men. Each and every God will be* ***honored*** *and* ***adored*** *by those over whom he reigns as a God, without any violation of the laws of heaven* — without any encroachment upon that command which saith, "thou shalt have no other Gods before me," for the glory, honor, power, and dominion of the great Eloheim, according to His own order of government.

We can conceive of no higher, or more perfect order of government than that which is embraced in **Patriarchal Authority**. *By virtue of this order, all* **Gods**, *whether in* **Heaven** *or on* **Earth**, *exercise a righteous power, and possess a just dominion.* In this order, ***all*** *are both* ***Subjects*** *and* ***Rulers,*** *each possessing* **Almighty Rights** *and* **Powers** *— Almighty rulers* **over** *those who*

*have **descended** from **them**, at the same time rendering all **honor** and **power** to those from **whom** they have **descended.*** What a glorious system of order is here portrayed — one in which an innumerable succession of Gods, Patriarchs, and rulers, can reign forever in the greatest possible harmony that can be comprehended by intelligences, while each is independent in his position, as is all intelligence. *As the great Eloheim* is **SUPREME** *and* **ALMIGHTY** *over all* HIS **CHILDREN** *and* **KINGDOMS**, *so is* **ADAM** *as* **GREAT** *a* **RULER**, *or* **GOD**, *in his sphere, **over his** **CHILDREN**, and the* **KINGDOM** *which they* **POSSESS.** The earth and all things upon it were created for Adam, and it was given to him of his Father to have dominion over it. In that dominion he will be sustained through out all eternity. (*Millennial Star* 15:801–804)

In other words, in accordance with the "Covenant" of "a perfect law of theocracy", all that is rightfully Adam's is also, in every sense of the word, the eternal possession of his Father and Grandfather-God, etc. Thus Michael/Adam's Father/God, and Grandfather God etc. can speak of Michael/Adam's son Jesus as though he were their "Only Begotten Son", which is typical of the book of Moses while Adam lived in mortality on Earth.

There are a number of passages in the Book of Moses, which have been taken as a contradiction to the Doctrine of Adam-God. Apostle Orson Pratt, who was the only general authority in the Church who came out in opposition against the doctrine, used these passages to put it down, and so also have others of his disciples who have followed in his footsteps. These problems are resolved by the principles which have been set forth above.

There is however, one other principle, which has a strong bearing on this matter. In Mormon circles, this principle has been referred to as the right of "Divine Investiture". In accordance with this doctrine, there are certain individuals such as prophets of God, angels or other divine beings who are invested with divine authority and given the right to speak for God, as though they were God. Often times edicts and messages coming from such individuals are prefaced with statements such as, "Thus saith the Lord", however, this is not always the case. A case in point is the angel which appeared to the Apostle John while on the Isle of Patmos. By all that the angel said and did you would have presumed that he were ***God Himself***, and were it not for the fact that John attempted to worship him, there would have been nothing said to indicate otherwise. The natural confusion which occured to John through this experience is clearly testified to in John's own words. Consider the following:

"I John . . . was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, **I** *am* **Alpha** *and* **Omega**, *the* **First** *and the* **Last:** and, What thou seest, write in a book . . . And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And . . . I saw . . . *one* ***like unto the Son of man***, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. *His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;* and his voice as the ***sound of many waters.*** *And . . . out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword:* and ***his countenance*** *was as the* ***sun shineth*** *in his* ***strength.*** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. *And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not;* **I** *am the* **First** *and the* **Last: I** *am he that* **Liveth**, *and was* **Dead**; *and,* **Behold**, **I** *am* **Alive** *for* **Evermore**, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death. Write the things which thou hast seen". (Rev. 1:9–19)

By all that this divine being has said, we would suppose that he were the resurrected Lord himself, yet consider what happened to John when he attempted to worship him:

And he [i.e. the angelic being] saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, *These are* ***the true sayings of God.*** *And I* ***fell*** *at* ***his feet*** *to* ***worship*** *him***.** And he said unto me, *See thou do it not***:** *I am thy* ***fellowservant***, *and of* ***thy brethren*** *that have the testimony of Jesus*: worship God". (Rev. 19:9–10)

At the conclusion of the vision, John again recounts his experience in chapter 22:

"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, ***I fell down*** *to* ***worship*** *before the* ***feet*** *of the* ***angel*** which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, *See thou do it not*: *for* ***I am*** *thy* ***fellowservant,*** *and of thy* ***brethren*** *the* ***prophets***, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: ***worship*** **God**." (Rev. 22:8–9)

The question which naturally arises from this experience is how many other appearances, visitations, visions, and revelations have been given when the angel who delivers the message did not identify himself as being someone other than God. In the above visitation, John himself who experienced it did not know until the end that it was not God. And if the individual who experienced it did not know, how are those who read the written record to know?

In the twenty-ninth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, in one passage it is Jesus who is addressing the Prophet and then in the next passage it is the Father, and there is no clear indication of transition. These are examples of "Divine Investiture", where the personage addressing the Prophet delivers a message for the Father or the Son, etc, and such trivialities have no bearing whatsoever on the truthfulness of the Adam-God doctrine. These revelations were not given with the intent of revealing the knowledge or identity of God. And this being the case, any reference to such things would be obscure. One thing is for certain, there is no revelation in the scriptures *which declares that Adam* **is not God**, and there are many passages which would suggest that he is!

Concerning "Divine Investiture", we know from the scriptures that **Jesus** *was* **One** *with his* **Father**, and without question this is the greatest prerequisite to being invested with the Divine right to speak for God. We know that Jesus had the right to speak for his Father, and that too, with or without announcing that he was doing so, and we also know that during the history of the world, others have had the same right, for the scriptures declare that "whether it is by my voice or by the voice of my servants the Prophets, it is the same". Jesus had the right to speak for his Father, and without any question, certainly the Father had the right to speak for His Son. And so also might Michael/Adam speak for His Father, and certainly during Adam's mortal sojourn on Earth, His Father could speak for Him, just as someone had to assume Jesus' heavenly role and calling during his mortal ministry on Earth. Indeed, in the case of Michael/Adam's Father, He could speak to us for Himself, for in every sense of the word, He is our Father and our God in Heaven, and the Father of our spirits just as much as Adam is the literal Father of our flesh.

There are at the very least apparent contradictions in scripture. Circumcision is a good example. In Genesis when the Lord revealed circumcision, he declared that it was an everlasting covenant to be observed in Israel forever, throughout all their generations, and yet in the New Testament, the apostle Paul did away with it among gentile converts. Do we throw out the New Testament, because of this and reject the message of Christ?

In Genesis 14 it says that the Father God is the creator of Heaven and Earth, but in Hebrews it says that Jesus "created the worlds". Do we reject the New Testament for this — it is after all the newer revelation? And even if Jesus did create the world, and even if he did it all by himself, need we presume from this that Jesus also created all

worlds, including the one upon which his Father dwelt in mortality before Jesus became his "Only Begotten Son". Or is it possible that Jesus has been identified with the Gods, and that they speak for him and he speaks for them, as they are all **one**. And if this is true, might it not also be true of Michael/Adam and His Father — they being one in mind and purpose also, that they should speak for one another.

As for the creation of the Universe — truly it is a big place, and all that truely lives has a place in it, and as such has had its own place in creation — indeed, life is the creator and not the created — for life is intelligence and intelligence is divine, no matter how small or great.

If we do not make an effort to put things in context and to come to a real understanding, then immense problems with meaning begin to occur in the Bible, as with all other things in life. Did you know that the Bible teaches that Eve is the Mother of God, and not only of God, but also his Father/God before Him, for the scriptures declare that he is the "living God" and that Eve is the "mother of all living". Not only so, but we must also believe that Eve is the mother of bugs, dogs, pigs and horses, for they also live!

On numerous occasions President Young stated that the Prophet Joseph Smith had said that Adam was our Father and our God, and in making these statements, I do not believe that he lied — I am sure that the Prophet made such statements in the Council of Fifty and Holy Order. But this notwithstanding, I do not believe that President Young fully understood the extent of Michael/Adam's divinity at that early date. I do not believe he understood it until years later in the Utah period, when the heavens were opened to him personally and the whole doctrine was revealed in all its heavenly beauty. When this happened, the whole doctrine fit into the building of his faith (which the Prophet had prepared for him) "without the sound of hammer or chisel". Yet when he revealed it to the Saints, because of prejudice, and the tradition of their fathers, they rejected it out of hand.

As with belief in Christ, for those who don't want to believe, they will forever be able to find reasons. And in the front ranks of their arguments will always be taunts — "Prove it from the Bible!" But the Bible tells us that in the latter days God would reveal things which had been kept hid from before the foundation of the world. How are we going to find such things in the Bible? We can be sure too from the teachings of Jesus, that among these glorious mysteries to be revealed will be the knowledge and identity of God the Father, for he declared to his disciples that:

"no man knoweth . . . who the father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him." (Luke 10:22)

We learn from this that in Jesus' day the knowledge of the identity of God the Father was a secret. And this being the case, we would expect that on this point scriptural writings would be obscure. This would especially include the scriptures which were given under the carnal law of Moses which practically speaking includes the whole Old Testament.

One of the criticisms against the Doctrine of Adam-God is the fallen and lowly state to which Adam fell when he came on Earth in mortality. He is portrayed as a being in childlike ignorance, who is without the knowledge of Good and Evil. In this state of weakness he does not resemble the God of creation. *But in this respect **Adam** is no **different** from **Jesus**, for in mortal birth **Jesus** also **became** an **infant child***. And in the normal process of birth, he lost the knowledge of good and evil, as well as the memory of his own illustrious premortal life. Ultimately Jesus grew to maturity in a normal human way and in the process found it necessary to *"learn **obedience** by the **things** which he **suffered***". Finally at the young age of 33 after being tried for blasphemy and treason, he was tortured and mocked, and then brutally murdered by his enemies, who in the process decried him, saying that "others he saved, but himself he could not save".

The Jesus of the cross does not in any way portray the *majestic God of creation*, who had such marvelous power as to be the *God and creator of the heavens and the Earth*. In this regard it is interesting that in accordance with his own teachings, Jesus claimed that he did nothing in his mortal life, *save that which **he** had seen **his Father do***. *Among other things this included laying down his mortal body **"that he might take it up again"***. *Interestingly,* this is *precisely what* **FATHER ADAM** *did*, and according to the scriptures, ***he did it for us***. The New Testament, teaches that Jesus came down on Earth and through death and mortality literally "descended below all things", that through the Resurrection of Life he might literally "rise above all things", and the same scriptures would also tell us that Adam has done no less. They also teach that **ADAM** *and* **CHRIST** *are the* **TWO GREAT HEADS** *of* **HUMANITY**, with Adam bringing suffering and death and Christ bringing the resurrection and Eternal Life. Needless to say the foreordained appointment and calling of Jesus the Christ would be pointless without the the mission and calling of Father Adam.

In both cases Adam and Jesus were given a role to play here on Earth, and with it a basic part to fulfill in the Plan of Salvation in order to bring about the redemption of the human race. But that in itself niether denies nor diminishes the role which each played both before and after their life here on Earth.

For us today, Jesus' divinity is taken for granted, because his role in the preexistence, in mortal life and after his resurrection has been revealed to us, hence our veneration for him. But during his mortal life, the Jews laughed and scoffed at Jesus, just as today other thoughtless individuals laugh and scoff at Adam-God. This lack of respect is largely due to the ignorance of those who show it; for Adam's role in our existence, in the preexistence, during mortality, and after His death has not yet been revealed to them. Indeed it was not revealed to anyone in our day, until the knowledge was given to the Prophet Joseph Smith and finally President Brigham Young, who bore the burden of proclaiming it to the world. When it was revealed and made manifest to the people, the Adam-God Doctrine was new revelation from the Heavens. It was first declared to the people by President Young who at that time was the head of the Priesthood and Kingdom of God on Earth. In every way President Young was the right man, and the one and only man on the Earth, who had the right to reveal the doctrine to the Saints and the world, for he was the fountainhead of the Priesthood and the lawful source for new revelation from the heavens as it pertained to the Kingdom of God on Earth. President Young declared that the Prophet Joseph Smith had taught it to him and that God had revealed it to him personally.

In keeping with typical humanity, when President Young finally declared the doctrine to the Saints and the world, the people scoffed at it, just as the Jews did at lowly Jesus in his day. But as future generations of Jews have lived to witness, in the leaven of God's Kingdom, things have a way of reversing themselves. Not only so, but in the story of man upon the Earth, it is amply proven that history repeats itself, as human nature leads man to return again and again to his mistakes and folly, as the dog returneth to his vomit; and just so, ultimately in our day, we shall live to see, that *"the **stone** which the **builders rejected** is **become** the **head** of the **corner***", and for us today, that stone is Michael/Adam-God!

I hope that these remarks will be of assistance to you in helping you to understand President Youngs teachings.

Your Friend & Brother in the Gospel,

Fred C. Collier

P.S. The wordiness which I have used in this letter makes for bad writing, but I have done it to avoid confusion, which is the natural consequence of the many common name/titles for the Gods.

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